

10/798,173

REMARKS

The present Response is submitted in reply to the Official Action of July 12, 2005.

Claims 12-22 are objected to because of the noted informalities. In response to the raised objections, the Applicant hereby amends claims 12-22 to address the raised informalities and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all of the raised objections of the claims.

Next, the Examiner requires an election of species under 35 U.S.C. § 121, between the following alleged patentably distinct species of the invention:

I. Species 1 - Claims 12, 14-16 and 18-22 directed to the embodiment of the invention shown in Figs. 1-3; or

II. Species 2 - Claims 13 and 17 directed to the embodiment of the invention shown in Figs. 1, 4 and 5.

Reconsideration of this requirement for election of species is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Applicant believes that the present invention contains two embodiments of a single inventive concept. The features of both species are presently recited in claim 23 which is believed to be generic to all of the species of this invention. Moreover, the Applicant believes that claim 23 is allowable and consequently both species of the invention should be prosecuted in one and the same application for efficiency reasons. It is respectfully submitted that the two species of the invention represent similar ways of obtaining the same desired results disclosed within this application.

Notwithstanding the above, in order to fulfill the Examiner's request, the Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, to prosecute the species of the claimed invention shown in Figures 1-3 of the drawings. The Applicant also provisionally elects, with traverse, claims 12, 14-16 and 18-23 which are readable on the elected species to be prosecuted on the merits.

The Applicant does not waive any rights with respect to the non-elected species and does not intend to abandon that subject matter. If the Examiner makes the election

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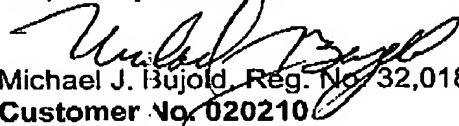
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requirement final, the Applicant respectfully requests that the non-elected species be withdrawn from further consideration but remain in this application subject to reinstatement, in the event that a generic claim is allowed, or for possible filing of a divisional application(s).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding election of species requirement should be withdrawn and examination of all claims pending in this application, on the merits, is respectfully requested at the present time.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,


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